

## **CONTACT REPORT**

**Type of Contact:** Personal Meeting

**Contact Location:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email address:**

**Person, Title Contacted:** Bill Chenoweth

**Contacted by:** David Brickey

**Date:** 05/01/03, ~0830-1430

**Subject:** Meeting at Chenoweth Home

### **Contact Summary Report:**

Met with Bill Chenoweth at his home from 0830 to 1130 and from 1330-1430. We visited the research library at the Museum of Western Colorado from ~1230-1315.

We started off the meeting describing the NAUM II project, TerraSpectra's role in relation to the USACE, USEPA, NNEPA, & NAMLRP.

We covered a few general items and learned:

1. VCA, AEC, and the Navajo Tribal Mining Department (TMD) all maintained separate and arbitrary grid coordinate systems.
  - a. VCA's grid was based upon the Mileposts on the AZ-NM Stateline
  - b. AEC grids were based upon stakes driven into the ground on hilltops. These stakes were the 0,0 origins of foot grids. These stakes were not surveyed.
  - c. Navajo TMD surveying was done on yet another grid system.
  - d. None of these grids was tied to a standard public land survey system.
2. A report on uranium in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico will be published in 2003 by the New Mexico survey.
3. Asked Bill if 1949-50 were the years that the Navajo did not provide numbered Mining Permits (MP). True, they initially did not. Permittees were supposed to provide a map and description of their claim. This was not consistently enforced. He believes that there were about 20 unnumbered MPs across the Navajo Nation (NN).

We then proceeded with going through the questions posed to Bill Chenoweth in letter, LTR-03-114, dated April 26, 2003:

1. Is the East Carrizo Mining District Claim Index Map the best map showing Lease/Mining Permit/Claim locations for the East Carrizo Mining District? [The Navajo Tribal Mining Dept. created this map. Leo Dinnetsoné \(sp?\) was the Navajo that created it. He likely created all the individual maps for the MPs. He is believed to be retired.](#)
2. Are there any summary maps showing Navajo Nation Mining Permits? [See the answer to #1 above. Bill believes that copies of these MP maps were given to Scarborough at the Arizona Geological Survey, and to Orin Anderson at the New Mexico Geological Survey.](#)
3. Do mine features sometimes fall outside the Lease/Mining Permits/Claims that they “belong to”, or does this represent an error in either the mine feature location or lease boundary location? [Yes. First there were larger prospecting claims held by the lessees. VCA is believed to have dug many dog holes and prospecting pits all over the East Carrizo district. Also the individuals and companies involved in mining on the ground were not knowledgeable of where lease and MP boundaries were in the field \(e.g. the Salt Canyon mine on VCA Plot 7\).](#)
4. In the W.H. Staver (1921) report titled “*Report on the Carriso Uranium Company’s Claims in the San Juan Indian Reservation*” there are several references to mine claim maps (see Attachment 1). Do these maps still exist, and if so, are they accessible? [Not to Bill’s knowledge. One place to look would be the former US Bureau of Mines archives. NOTE – The Museum of Western Colorado in Grand Junction has a uranium mining map archive and Bill has an index of it. Bill has loaned it to us for reproduction.](#)
5. Are you familiar with any maps or coordinates for the AEC Lease Plot 7 (Cove Mesa) or for the Cato Sells Cove Mesa Claim of Mining Permit MP-56/547? [We have only found a map by Scarborough that shows a line that splits Cove Mesa between the two operations \(see Attachment 2\). Perhaps, we will go to the Museum of Western Colorado \(MWC\) to look at the Union Mines Development Corporation \(UMDC\) maps. Later this day we went to the MWC, found the maps with the help of Sissi, and took digital photos of them. Also, Bill lent us his report RMO-819 on the AEC drilling program on Cove Mesa.](#)
6. Are you aware of any VCA (Foote/Cyprus Foote) maps or survey coordinates for the 12 plots of the East Reservation Lease of VCA? [Scarborough at the AZ survey received a set of VCA maps for AZ. McLemore/Anderson at the NM survey received a set of VCA maps for NM.](#)
7. Mines and leases for which we have specific problems are:
  - a. [We have not found a map that shows the location of the Valley View Mine. AML mine feature 17 to the SE of the Syracuse RF&R is not the Valley View Mine. Feature 16 is more likely the mine as suggested by Scarborough’s map of the Syracuse RF&R mine. The Valley View mine probably started on an unnumbered MP that later became Frank Junior’s MP-200 or the Valley View Extension Claim of MP-200.](#)
  - b. [Is there a Valley View Extension Mine or is there only the Valley View Extension Claim MP-200 of Frank Junior. Scarborough reports production and shows this](#)

claim on Fig 14 (see Attachment 3). There is not a Valley View Extension Mine. MP-200 of Frank Junior is likely correct.

- c. We have seen references to “Wade, Curran and Co.” as the holder of the Syracuse RF&R Mine in 1942 and 1943. However Scarborough’s Fig 14 (Attachment 3) shows “Curran Brothers and Wade” with two plots in 1942. How might we establish the correct company name? Curran Brothers and Wade is incorrect. Wade, Curran and Co is correct. He suggested that Scarborough may have seen this in Coleman’s report that erroneously credits Curran Brothers and Wade. Bill also volunteered that Sam Harvey’s later MP(s) for the Syracuse RF&R Mine were not the same in acreage or shape as the earlier leases. However, they are roughly similar. Bill has seen no maps that show Sam Harvey’ MP.

It appears that the Carriso Uranium Co. may have also held claims in this area as part of its North Star Group. Is the Syracuse Lode Claim Map showing some of these (Attachment 4)? Bill concurs that the Syracuse Lode Claim map is likely showing parts of the North Star Claim Group of the Carriso Uranium Co. He suggests that the name associated with the US Mineral Survey, George Williams, does not indicate that Williams had a claim. Wade was the principal here. Wade likely provided some interest in his company to Williams in return for hiring the US Mineral Survey.

- d. Did MP-200 (Frank Junior) also have a claim at the Toni Tuc (Tony Tuc No. 1) Mine? Bill concurred upon showing him letters from the BIA implied that MP-200 had a claim at the Toni Tuc mine.
- e. We have several questions regarding the location of the Upper and Lower Canyon Mines and the Upper and Lower Canyon Claims of MP-56/547 (Cato Sells). We believe the boundaries for the Upper and Lower Canyon claims are not correctly mapped in our GIS database and we would appreciate your opinion. The following are specific discrepancies we have noted:
  - i. Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (AML) data shows many mine features in MP-431 (W Sells), yet there is no recorded production here. Could these actually be the Upper Canyon Mines? Yes they are. Are W. Sells and Cato Sells the same person? No.
  - ii. AML data shows many mine features in MP-430 (E. Leuppe), yet there is no recorded production here. Could these actually be the Lower Canyon Mines? Yes they are.
  - iii. Perhaps the group of MPs including the Upper and Lower Canyon Claims of MP-56/547 (Cato Sells), MP-431 (W Sells), and MP-430 (E. Leuppe) should be moved northward. Yes, as a group they should be shifted northwards substantially. Bill provided a certification report on the Canyon mines that will help to determine how much of a shift northwards. Bill has lent us for reproduction a “Certification” Report of the Upper Canyon and Lower Canyon Claims, dated 8/10/56. Bill notes the AEC’s certification program for new mines in the 1950s resulted in a series of

reports for every mine property that attempted to receive “Certification” whether certified or denied. These can be obtained from the USDOE National Archive in Grand Junction. He said to obtain these that Glynn could write to Jeffrey G. Tack, Records Manager, USDOE, 2597 B ¾ Rd., Grand Junction, CO, 81503. Bill recommended that a FOIA not be done. One should write to Tack a letter requesting copies of the Indices of Certified and Denied properties, and that the indices be sent to Chenoweth for him to ID the Red Valley Chapter (or other Chapters). These reports are comprehensive on describing ownership, history, production, permits, & locations by text and map. These do not exist for VCA, UMD, or AEC leases.

- f. Does our location of Junction Mine and Junction Claim of MP-24(555/608) appear correct? AML’s Junction Mine location looks good. Clearly the Junction Claim is not properly located.
- g. Are there any mines in King Tutt Extension claim of MP-6 or are the mine features at the eastern-most end actually part of VCA Plot 2 (King Tutt Point)? There are none in the Extension Claim as there is no associated production; any within it would belong to the King Tutt Point VCA Plot.
- h. Is the Shadyside No. 2 Mine generally east of the Shadyside No. 1 Mine? Yes.
- i. Is our location of the Shadyside Incline Mine correct? The rectification of the VCA Plot 3 looks very good here and AML’s identification of the Incline appears to be incorrect.
- j. Is there an MP-440 Oak Springs Extension as shown on Scarborough Fig 13 (see Attachment 5)? Yes, but without production.
- k. Is Begay No.1 Claim of MP-24 (555/608) actually two claims with Begay No.1 to the south and Begay No. 2 to the north? Yes. Begay No. 1 claim was originally one claim but was later split into #1 and #2. See the Begay No.2 report from the NM Survey, OFR465, lent to us by Bill. He also lent us a Tent Mine report, also published in 2002.
- l. The East Carrizo Mining District Claim Index Map shows MP-4 (George Tutt Claims) to the east of VCA Plot 7. Is this really the MP-74 (320) claim (King Tutt and Paul Shorty; also known as the Salt Canyon or King Tutt Claim)? We also believe this was one of the MP-1 claims of Tony Garnonez? Bill agrees that the MP-4 – George Tutt Claim designation does not concur with his report on VCA 7. He stands by his history published in that report.
- m. Is the Upper Red Wash Mine also known as the North Red Valley Mine? Bill shows that the unpublished AEC records show it as the Upper Red Wash Mine. Does not disagree that someone may have called it the North Red Valley Mine.
- n. Is there an MP for Horse Mesa? No, there is no numbered MP for Horse Mesa.

At this point we went to lunch and then on to:

The Museum of Western Colorado  
462 Ute Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 20000 81502-5020  
970-242-0971 Fax: 970-242-3960

Loyd File Research Library  
Public research hours:  
10 a.m.-noon, and 1-3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday;

Judy Prosser-Armstrong is the Curator of Archives, Librarian & Registrar and she was out of town for the month of May on travel. Sissi helped us and let us into the vaulted archives because of Bill Chenoweth's presence. Normally must go through Judy. At the vault pulled out UMDC maps on Cove Mesa and environs and the Coleman outcrop maps for the King Tutt region. We photographed these.

Went back to Bill's home and spent an hour gathering reports he would loan us, as well as a set of UMDC maps for reproduction.

We reviewed the set of Mine and Lease/Mining Permit maps produced by TSG, and learned the following:

1. Cyprus Foote has been bought by Phelps Dodge
2. VCA Plot 8 should be centered on the Cottonwood Butte
3. Note that there is a Witness Corner for Milepost 16 south of Milepost 16
4. East & West Mesa Mines are in the Weber report
5. From Bill's personal files - East Mesa Mines is on MP-20. It is 36.4 acres.
  - a. 4/26/52 – Leroy Pettigrew permittee
  - b. 9/22/52 - Davis Mining Co assigned
  - c. 11/28/56 – Assign cancelled
  - d. 2/11/57 – California Uranium Mines, Inc. assigned
  - e. 6/3/58 – Permit canceled
6. From Bill's personal files - West Mesa Mine is on MP-173. It is 41.06 acres.
  - a. 8/6/54 – Raymond Arviso permittee
  - b. 11/26/54 - Pettigrew, Worley, and Reynolds assigned
  - c. 11/24/56 – Permit cancelled
7. Chenoweth has an unpublished report for the Tohe Thlany Begay Mine. He has lent it to us for reproduction. Site him as a written communication. Following are stats from Bill's personal files to be checked against the unpub. report:
  - a. 1950 this was an unnumbered MP
  - b. 4/26/52 - Bennie Tohe acquired the permit for MP-7 (640 acres)
  - c. 8/16/52 - Carl Chelf (dba Texas Mining Co) received approved assign
  - d. 3/1/52 – 14.52 tons of ore shipped
  - e. AEC drilled 7 barren holes in 1952
  - f. 3/1/52 – 8/53 – 155.50 tons ore shipped
  - g. 8/16/52 assign cancelled
  - h. Texas Mining company drilled but shipped no ore

- i. 1954 – probably 4/26 – MP-7 expired
  - j. 8/3/55 – MP-336 with same 640 acres permitted to Be(r)lin Begay, Willie Clazzie Thlany, and Sam Foster
  - k. 8-9/1955 – 11.75 tons shipped under the name of Carrizo #7 Mine.
  - l. 10/2/56 – Sam Foster relinquished his 213.33 acres
  - m. 2/11/56 – Assigned to Mud Mesa Mining Co
  - n. 2/11/56 – 2/11/58 no ore shipments
8. Upper Red Canyon Mine (east of Toni Tuc). Unnumbered MP.
- a. Tony Garnonez is the permittee
  - b. 20 tons shipped in 1950
  - c. 6 tons shipped in 1951
9. Bill seemed to think that the AML mine feature dataset was a good one, and quite comprehensive on all the features it mapped and identified.